THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. Exports of Indian Footwear Components (primarily shoe components) have been steadily increasing during the past few years, as indicated below:

Year	Exports (Rs. Crores)
1988-89	425.62
1989-90	518.25
1990-91	609.96
(April-91 to Feb'92)	870.25

(provisional)

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To encourage export of leather footwear and other leather products, Government has taken a number of promotional measures which *inter-alia* include:

(i) duty free import of leather in raw, semifinshed form to supplement domestic availability of leather;

(ii) import of other raw materials, consumables, accessories, chemicals and capital goods with concessional duties;

(iii) Strengthening design and development programmes;

(iv) augmenting man-power training both within the country or outside;

(v) establishing industrial estates and promoting common facility centres; and

(vi) improving quality of Indian footwear and other leather products and making them more competitive in the world market.

भारतीय आभूषण उद्योग की बिगड़ती हुई स्थिति

4515. डा० बापू कालदाते: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय आभूषण उद्योग आज बहुत खराब स्थिति में है और इसकी स्थिति और बदतर होती जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) सरकार इसके कार्य निष्पादन में सुधार करने के लिए और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय उद्योग की तुलना में इसे प्रतियोगी बनाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) इस उद्योग के लिए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार को उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) तथा (घ) चालू आयात-निर्यात नीति के अध्याय 21 में दिए गए सोने और चांदी के आभूषण एवं वस्तुओं के निर्यात के लिए विभिन्न योजनाएं चलाई जा रही हैं। निर्यातकों को ऐसी योजनाओं के तहत स्टेट बैंक आफ इंडिया भारतीय हस्तशिल्प एवं हथकरघा निर्यात निगत लिमिटेड (एच०एच०ई०सी०) और खनिज एवं धातु व्यापार निगम लिमिटेड (एम०एम०टी०सी०) के जरिए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कीमतों पर सोना सप्लाई किया जा रहा है। इसके अतिरिक्त सरकार ने हाल ही में दिनांक 11 दिसम्बर, 1991 की सार्वजनिक सूचना सं० 257-आई०टी०सी०(पी०एन०)/90—93 के अनुसार निर्यातकों द्वारा सोने का सीधे आयात करने की अनुमति देने के लिए योजना भी अधिसूचित कर दी है।

Details of Telex Exchanges in Assam

4516. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Telex Exchanges in Assam circle with details of strowger type and electronic type as well as their installed, working capacity and actual working connections as on the 15th March, 1992, exchange-wise;

(b) what are the details of waiting list as on the 15th march, 1992 for telex connections in the said exchanges, exchangewise; and

(c) by when the current waiting list will be fully cleared, exchange-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Details of telex exchanges in Assam Circle are given in the Statement, *(See* below);

Statement

SI. No.	Name of Telex	Type capacity	Installed	Working capacity	Working connection
1.	Guwahati	SPC Telex (Electronic)	328 (local) + 212 (Jn.)	311 (local) + 180 (Jn.)	2831 (local) + 180 (Jn.)
2.	Tinsukia	Strowger	60	60	37
3.	Dibrugarh	Strowger	50	50	27
4.	Jorhat	Electronic	40	40	19
5.	Silchar	ITEX "	40	40	17

(b) Details of waiting list of telex is as follows:

Guwahati 15
Tinsukhia ..... Nil
Dibrugarh ..... Nil
Jorhat 8
Silchar 2

(c) The current waiting list will be cleared in Guwahati by August, 1992.

In Jorhat by March, 1993 and in Silchar the two applicants waitlisted are for long distance connections which are not technically feasible at present.

Telephone Connection at Blocks and Panchayats levels in West Bengal and Sikkim

4517. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Blocks and Panchayat headquarters in West Bengal and Sikkim, covered by telephone services;

(b) whether most of these places are situated in backward, rural and tribal areas; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to connect these areas with telephone facilities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Details are given in the statment *(See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have planned to provide telephone facility to all panchayat Villages including those which are situated in backward and tribal areas by 31st March, 1995 and the remaining no panchayat villages by 2000 A.D. progressively subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Name of the Block and Panchayat Headquarters in West Bengal and Sikkim covered by telephone services.

WEST BENGAL STATE

BANKURA DISTRICT 1. Sonamukhi 2. Patrasayer 3. Kotulpur 4. Indus 5. jaypur 6: Vishnupur 7. Tandangra 8. Simiapal 9. Raipur-I 10. Raipur-II 11. Ranibudh 12. Khatra 13. Khatra 14. Indpun 15. Bankura-I 16. Bankura-II 17. Chhatna 18. "Salbura 19. Majia 20. Barjora 21. Gangajalghari 22. Unda

BIRBHUM DISTRICT 1. Nalhati-I 2. Nalhati-H 3. Murarai-I 4. Murarai-II 5. Mayureswar-I 6. Mayu-reswar-II 7. Rampurhat-I 8. Rampurhat-II 9. Sainthia 10. Dubrajpur 11. Rajnagar 12. Suri-I 13. Suri-II 14. Khoypasol 15. Mohammad Bazar 16. Bolpur Sriniketan 17. Labpur 18. Nanoor 19. Illambazar.

BURDWAN DISTRICT

1. Burdwan 2. Bhator 3. Ausgram-I. 4. Ausgram-II 5. Galsi-II 6. Memari-I 7. Mamari-II 8. Jamalpur 9. Raina-I 10. Raina-H 11. Khandaghosh 12. Purbasthali-I 13. Purbasthali-II 14. Kalna-I 15. Kalna-II 16. Monteswar 17. Mongolkote 18. Ketugram-I 19. Ketugram-II 20. Katwa-I 21. Katwa-II 22. Galsi-I 23. Durgapur/Faridpur 24. Kanksa 25. Ondal 26. Hirapur 27. Salanpur 28. Barbani 29. Raniganj 30. Kulti 31. Asansai 32. Jamuna 33. Jamuria-II.

HOOGHLY DISTRICT

1. Arambagh 2. Khanakul-I